

*Amendments to the Claims*

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method of predicting the risk of pre-eclampsia in a pregnant woman, the method comprising the steps of:
  - (a) obtaining a sample of blood from the woman;
  - (b) subsequently assaying the sample for the levels of free  $\beta$ -human chorionic gonadotrophin (free  $\beta$ -hCG), ~~and~~ Inhibin A and unconjugated oestriol (uE<sub>3</sub>) present in the sample; and
  - (c) determining the risk of pre-eclampsia using the ~~measure~~ measured levels of free  $\beta$ -human chorionic gonadotrophin (free  $\beta$ -hCG), Inhibin A, ~~and~~ unconjugated oestriol (uE<sub>3</sub>) present in the sample.
2. (cancelled)
3. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the method is carried out after 20 weeks of pregnancy.
4. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 3, in which the method is carried out at the end of the second trimester and the beginning of the third trimester.

5. (previously presented) A method as claimed in any of claims 1, 3 or 4, in which the determination of risk in step (c) is undertaken by comparing the levels of free  $\beta$ -human chorionic gonadotrophin (free  $\beta$ -hCG), Inhibin A and unconjugated oestriol ( $uE_3$ ) present in the sample with those in a control sample.
6. (original) A method as claimed in claim 5, in which the determination of risk comprises deriving the likelihood ratio using a multivariate analysis based on distribution parameters from a set of reference data.
7. (original) A method as claimed in claim 6, in which the multivariate analysis is a multivariate Gaussian analysis.
8. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 7, in which the estimation of risk consists of multiplying the likelihood ~~ratio~~ ratio by the background risk for pre-eclampsia.
9. (currently amended) A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 or 3 to 8, the method further comprising a step (d) of re-expressing ~~each measured screening marker level~~ the measured levels of  $\beta$ -human chorionic gonadotrophin (free  $\beta$ -hCG), Inhibin A, and unconjugated oestriol ( $uE_3$ ) as a multiple of the median level of the measured levels, respectively, of  $\beta$ -human chorionic gonadotrophin (free  $\beta$ -hCG), Inhibin A, and unconjugated oestriol ( $uE_3$ ) ~~the respective screening marker~~ in unaffected pregnancies of

the same gestational age as the fetus of the pregnant woman.

10. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 9, in which the measured levels of  $\beta$ -human chorionic gonadotrophin (free  $\beta$ -hCG), Inhibin A, and unconjugated oestriol ( $uE_3$ ) screening marker levels are adjusted to allow for one or more factors selected from the group of maternal race, maternal weight, multiple birth and diabetic status.

11. (previously presented) An apparatus for determining whether a pregnant woman is at an increased risk of pre-eclampsia, the apparatus comprising:

- (a) data input means for inputting a measurement of the serum levels of Inhibin A, free  $\beta$ -human chorionic gonadotrophin (free  $\beta$ -hCG) and unconjugated oestriol ( $uE_3$ ) in a sample obtained from said pregnant woman; and
- (b) calculation means for determining the risk of pre-eclampsia using the input levels of the serum markers Inhibin A, free  $\beta$ -human chorionic gonadotrophin (free  $\beta$ -hCG) and unconjugated oestriol ( $uE_3$ ).

12. (cancelled)

13. (previously presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 11, in which the calculation means is arranged to determine the risk of pre-eclampsia by deriving the likelihood ratio for pre-eclampsia using a multivariate analysis based on distribution

parameters derived from a set of reference data.

14. (original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 13, in which the multivariate analysis is a multivariate Gaussian analysis.

15. (previously presented) An apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 11, 13 or 14, in which the apparatus further comprises (c) means for re-expressing the levels of each input screening marker as a multiple of the median level of the respective screening marker in unaffected pregnancies of the same gestational age as the fetus of the pregnant woman and supplying the re-expressed screening marker levels to said calculation means.

16. (previously presented) A kit for predicting the onset of pre-eclampsia in a pregnant woman, comprising means for assaying a sample from the woman for the levels of free  $\beta$ -human chorionic gonadotrophin (free  $\beta$ -hCG), Inhibin A and unconjugated oestriol ( $uE_3$ ) present in the sample.

17. (cancelled)